



CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

Kimberley Driscoll
Mayor

Office of the Mayor

May 26, 2022

Honorable Salem City Council
Salem City Hall
Salem, Massachusetts 01970

Ladies and Gentlemen of the City Council:

Each October Salem welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors. While we have worked hard to encourage them to come by train and ferry, or use the satellite lots and free shuttle, many people still arrive here in private passenger vehicles. Our public parking facilities lack the capacity to accommodate the number of cars that come to Salem in October and, even with our efforts to promote alternative methods of transportation, we need to plan reasonably for future October seasons where we will continue to have a very large quantity of cars driving into Salem.

Each year, private property owners in proximity to the downtown take advantage of this influx of cars to charge for parking on their property. Some keep the money for themselves, while others are more community-minded and donate all or a portion of their revenues from this practice to local nonprofit organizations. To this point, however, the practice of allowing paid parking on these lots where that parking is not related to the principal use the property itself is not consistent with our zoning.

The enclosed Ordinance is intended to provide structure and order to this activity through the creation of a Parking Overlay District from the Friday prior to October to the Monday after October 31 that includes the B5 zone and up to one-quarter mile from the B5. Within those dates and that area, paid parking on private lots would be allowed in a manner consistent with the existing regulations for parking areas in the Zoning code.

As we continue to manage the safety and orderliness of October in Salem, I believe this is a good step forward in that work. It establishes guardrails around a practice that has, to this point, been largely unregulated and difficult to monitor and manage.

I recommend adoption of the Ordinance following the required joint public hearing with the Planning Board and invite you to contact David Kucharsky, Beth Rennard, and Tom St. Pierre with any questions that you may have regarding it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberley Driscoll". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kimberley Driscoll
Mayor
City of Salem

Halloween Parking Overlay District

